THE ECUMENICAL COURIER

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HOLBROOK PACIFIC RELIGIOUS

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

At a displaced persons camp near Augustdorf, Germany, these refugees (below), unable to return to their homes and homelands, and afflicted, after years of postwar hardship, with tuberculosis, are finding their Christmas happiness in making others happy. As part of a self-help program, sponsored by the World Council of Churches, by which camp residents are encouraged through therapeutic work to become partially self-supporting, they teach a group of camp residents to make figures for lovely manger scenes from small scraps of wood. Tools

for the project are supplied by youth groups in the Netherlands.

In the camp nursery, children of hospitalized parents examine toys made in another self-help project.

Carvings, clocks, jewelry, stamp collections, baskets, leather craft, bead work, weaving, are among other products of camp workshops which find ready sale.

At Augustdorf everyone works at some task that gives immediate and vital purpose to his life, and instead of the expected pattern of refugee life, one finds creative effort, enthusiasm, and a new confidence to face the future.

FELLOWSHIP MISSION REPORTS ON ISTANBUL

Two months after the riots which destroyed most of the Eastern Orthodox churches of Istanbul, and damaged the homes and places of business of Greek citizens, thousands of people are still suffering the effects of that night of terror. Thousands of homes are still without doors or window glass as winter approaches, and many people have only the clothes on their backs and no blankets.

This was the report of a "Mission of Fellowship" sponsored by the World Council of Churches, which made a week-long survey of the situation in Istanbul. The members of the Mission of Fellowship are the Rev. Dr. Edward Hardy, Professor at Berkeley Divinity School (Protestant Episcopal), New Haven, Conn.; Professor Robert Tobias of Butler University (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Ind.; the Right Reverend Ivor Stanley Watkins, Bishop of Malmesbury, of Bristol, England; the Rev. Charles Westphal, Vice President of the Protestant Federation of France; and the Rev. Raymond Maxwell of the staff of the World Council in Geneva, with special responsibility for Orthodox affairs.

On their return to the World Council headquarters at Geneva, the "Mission" issued a statement underlining the responsibility of the Turkish government to make prompt restitution for rebuilding churches, schools and other property destroyed by the riots of September 6.

The Mission conferred with political leaders including the governor of Istanbul, and received assurance of the government's intention of making restitution for the damages sustained. The extent of the restitution to be made was not yet clear. The governor stated that the prime minister of Turkey plans to visit Istanbul in the near future to determine what compensation will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, in order to alleviate the immediate suffering of the people, the World Council of Churches plans to make an appeal for immediate inter-church aid for the area to the extent of $75,000.

The Mission also called on the Ecumenical Patriarch of Istanbul and expressed the concern of the Council and its member churches for the tragic suffering of the Greek Christians as a result of the riots. They also conferred with the Armenian Patriarch, with leaders of the Congregational Christian Mission, and leaders of the Church of England and the German Lutheran Church; also with leading laymen.

"The jealousies of Christians, who are united substantially in their views of evangelical doctrine and religion, and who are divided only by localities, and rites, and forms, must yield and give place to the glorious exigencies of the present day."—From a sermon preached October 12, 1827, by the Rev. Lyman Beecher, D.D., before the American Board of Missions at New York.

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The *Ibis,* a mission houseboat, is the oldest missionary in Egypt, having travelled up and down the Nile for almost 100 years.

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"We must somehow learn in Christ to rejoice in one another's orthodoxies even while as members of one family we have to endure many of one another's heresies."—Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Ecumenical Movement is like a symphony. It is at its best when each musician playing his own part, does so in harmony and with full appreciation of the parts of his fellow musicians. It is the overall performance of the composition, not the prowess of individuals that is important—yet unless each plays his part well (and that includes following the director and also being mindful of his fellow-musicians) the whole effect is ruined.

THE ECUMENICAL COURIER is a bi-monthly bulletin published by the United States Conference of the World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Elsie Thomas Culver, Secretary for Public Relations, editor. The Council unites 164 Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant communions in 47 countries. Neither the COURIER nor the World Council of Churches is responsible for opinions quoted in its columns.

347

rayer for Christian Unity alled for January 18-25

The World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order has issued a leaflet for he Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Januy 18-25, 1956. It is intended for use in special ervices held all over the world.

"Prayer for unity," says the leaflet, "is like rayer for daily bread. It cannot be a careless, ccasional prayer. It ought not to be offered nly during a special week of the year. And et there is manifest value in emphasizing this etition to God at a time when Christians of any communions and confessions can join toether. You are invited to promote and particiate in this most essential liturgical practice."

The week of January 18-25 is recommended s a special period for prayer in the churches nd in ecumenical services.

A litany, prayer and intentions to be used or corporate or private devotion are available n leaflet form (sample on request from the World Council of Churches).

EPORTS ON VISIT 'O CHINA CHURCHES

Mr. Duncan Wood, who has just returned rom leading a Quaker Mission to China, reorts having met numbers of well-known Chiese Christians.

Mr. Wood in an interview in Geneva, Switzrland, said that church leaders in China had eceived with interest news of recent developnents in the ecumenical movement. Many had ent personal greetings through the Quakers to riends in the West. "Just as Christians in the West have not ceased to remember their Chiese friends in prayer, so we have discovered nat the reverse is true," Mr. Wood said. He eported that officials of the Bureau of Religious Affairs of the Chinese Government had aised no objection in principle to visits from ther Asian churches, nor did they see any obection in principle to Chinese Christians visting other parts of Christendom.

"At the same time," Mr. Wood added, church leaders said 'not yet' when asked whether the time had come for fuller collaboation in ecumenical work. We cannot expect Christians in China to be much ahead of their government in seeking to re-establish contacts with the rest of the world."

When asked about the general situation of the Chinese churches, Mr. Wood said that they were "modestly but steadily" growing in numbers. "Many church activities seem to be interdenominational in character. The theological seminaries have more candidates than they can take. There is not the slightest doubt of the Christian basis on which the churches are working," Mr. Wood concluded. "In spite of the relative isolation of the past few years they realize that they are still part of the whole Christian family. They welcomed us in this knowledge."

Leaders met by Mr. Wood included Professor T. C. Chao (who resigned as a President of the World Council of Churches in 1950), Dr. Y. C. Du and Dr. Khiang Wen Han (both of the Y.M.C.A.), Dr. Y. T. Wu, Bishop Robin Chen and Bishop K. H. Ting (of the Union Theological Seminary in Nanking).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, N.C.C.

The National Council of Churches will celebrate the fifth anniversary of its founding on November 29. It was on that date in 1950 that the Council was formally constituted in Cleveland. The anniversary will be observed by church leaders in Omaha, Nebraska, in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the General Board, November 30-December 1.

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U.S.A.: Ecumenical visitors from Geneva in the United States this fall include: Dr. Madeleine Barot, October 26-December 16; Dr. Edgar Chandler, November 7-November 21; Dr. Leslie E. Cooke, November 20-December 14; Dr. Elfan Rees, September 11-December 9.

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TOUR: Anyone interested in a planned church-related tour (1956) including visits to the World Council headquarters and projects in Europe (as well as usual sightseeing) should contact ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD TRAVEL EXCHANGE, 1790 Broadway, New York 17, or inquire at the World Council (N.Y.C.) office.

NICE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ECUMENICAL FRIENDS

Ladies' Brooch—Ceramic brooch in lovely colors and gold. Exact size of symbol as shown (left). Boxed and postage paid $1.

Men's Lapel Pin—Gold or silver with red and blue enamel. About half size shown (right). Pin or post and screw fastener. Silver $1.50. Gold $2.00.

Evanston Medal—Exact replica of the medallions given to the presidents and delegates at the Assembly. Beautiful bronze design. For paperweight or desk piece. Order two for framing. $2.50 each; two for $4.50, prepaid.

Colored Slide Sets—Thirty beautiful colored slides of the Second Assembly. A "treasure" of permanent historic value. Ideal gift for your pastor, your church, for anyone who was at the Assembly, or for those who "participated" from their own home church. Set of 30 slides $10.00.

Copies of the Davos statement on "Cooperatio of Men and Women in Church and Society" a available on request.

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"The Local Church and the World Council Churches" by Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert *(Ecumenic Courier* XIV—4) has been reprinted as an 8-pa folder titled "The Individual Christian and the Wor Council of Churches." $1.50 per 100.

NEW: *Study Division Bulletin* of the World Counc News of Departments of Church and Society, Eva gelism, Faith and Order, Missionary Studies. Illu trated. Issued in March and October. Subscription 50 Sample on request.

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GIVERS: *Contributors' Income Tax Deduction Guid* How Our Government Encourages Charitable Cont butions. A few copies of this Lasser Tax Institu publication are available free from the W.C.C.

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The World Council received the followin letter from the pastor of a local church:

"Enclosed you will find two checks, each f fifty dollars. They represent a joint contributio of this church and Mr. D— to the World Cou cil of Churches. When I approached Mr. D regarding the removal of a dead tree from o church property, he said he would remove t tree if our church would make a contributio of fifty dollars to the World Council of Church He had read about the work, and felt that t Council was doing a significant job in furthe ing the work of Christianity.

"We are glad to be able to help in the wo which the World Council is doing and pr that God will continue to bless the work whi it has done to bring understanding and streng to the efforts of the Church around the worl

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ECUMENICAL STUDY

33 Ecumenical Students At University of Geneva

SWITZERLAND: Thirty-three theological students from thirteen different countries have registered for the fourth course (1955-1956) at the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies at Bossey, near Geneva. There are students from Australia, Germany, England, Greece, Holland, India, Japan, the Cameroons, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and the U.S.A. The students belong to the following denominations: Anglican, Episcopal, Evangelical - Reformed, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Swedish Mission Church and three from united or union churches.

The new term began on October 1st. The opening was attended by Professor J. Courvoisier, Dean of the Theological Faculty of Geneva University, and by representatives of the National and Free Churches of Geneva and of the Canton of Vaud, of the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland, of the Reformed Church of France, and of the World Council.

The basic theme of the new course is the problem of ecumenical theology. During the course this theme will be dealt with from the aspects of the Reformed, Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, and also from the standpoint of different sects. Lectures will be given by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches ("What Is the Ecumenical Movement?"), Canon S. L. Greenslade, England ("The Apostolic Fathers Studied from the Ecumenical Point of View"), Professor H. D. Wendland, Germany, and Professor R. Craig, South Africa ("Studies in the Concepts and Issues of 'Responsible Society'"), Professor B. G. M. Sundkler, Sweden ("The Young Churches of Africa"), Professor Verkhovsky of the Orthodox Seminary of St. Vladimir in New York ("The Orthodox Church"), and the Rev. R. S. Paul, Assistant Director of the Ecumenical Institute ("The Christian Sects"). The new Director of the Ecumenical Institute is Professor H. H. Wolf.

Union Seminary Starts Religious Studies Program

UNITED STATES: A new program of "Advanced Religious Studies" was inaugurated at Union Seminary, New York City, on October 26. Object of the new program is to train key leadership for the ecumenical movement. The program will provide one-year fellowships for twenty-five graduate students of unusual promise from various parts of the world. Students are chosen not only for intellectual achievement, but for evidence of ability to give Christian leadership when they return to their own countries.

Mr. Benjamin Strong, chairman of the Seminary's Board of Directors, and Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, President, conducted the service of inauguration. Also participating were Dr. Miner Searle Bates, current director of the program; Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Vice-President of the Seminary; Dr. John C. Bennett, Dean of the Faculty, and Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Rev. Ralph Douglas Hyslop, Ph.D., was inducted into the position of Professor of Ecumenical Studies. Dr. Hyslop comes to the program from Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. He has spent two years as a member of the staff of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland.

At a dinner following the ceremonies, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake addressed 250 faculty members, directors and guests of the seminary. He foresaw a new ecumenical reformation within the world-wide Christian Church as "perhaps not yet a reality, but surely a possibility." He suggested that any Church reformation whether four hundred years ago or today, calls also for a "renaissance of thought and learning." He deplored the anti-intellectualism of the present day, which he found "dangerously characteristic of a great deal of the religious revival of all our churches."

Also on the dinner program was President Harold W. Dodds, of Princeton University, and President Nathan M. Pusey of Harvard University.

CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

JAPAN: Eight Christian writers, men and women, gathered to study methods, materials, and purposes of writing Christian literature. The conference was sponsored by the Literature Commission of Japan's National Council of Churches.

INDONESIA: Forty-five delegates and eight national officers representing twenty Christian youth organizations met in Sukabumi from October 23 to November 1, for the first national Youth Leaders' Training Conference. It was subsidized by a grant from the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches to the Indonesian Ecumenical Youth Movement.

ETHIOPIA: The bill of rights of the new Ethiopian constitution insures full religious freedom, but the Constitution states that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, founded in the fourth century on the doctrines of St. Mark, is the established church of the state.

GREAT BRITAIN: Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, received an honorary D.D. degree from Oxford University where he had been giving a series of lectures.

One Year After—One thousand laymen and clergy attended an "ecumenical worship service and breakfast" in McGaw Hall, Evanston, Illinois, on October 16, sponsored by the Evanston Council of Churches and the Evanston Ministerial Association as a "follow-up" of the World Council Assembly held there a year ago. The Rev. Colin Williams of Australia, currently teaching at Garrett Biblical Institute (second from left in planning group in photo) spoke on "We Intend to Grow Together."

Discussing cooperation of men and women church and society at Davos, Switzerla Schwester Dora Schlatter (Switzerland); M

Delight Lynn, ecutive Dire of National Y C.A. (New Z land); Mrs. W ter Horton (A.); Rev. H Ruedi Weber, retary of the partment on L W.C.C.

INDIA: A young Indian family have bec missionaries from the United Church of N India in Bombay to the city of Nairobi in Africa. They are sent from the same chu from which, years ago, David Livingstone out for Africa after visiting India. This is first venture of this group of churches in se ing a missionary to another country.

U.S.A.: Cynthia (Mrs. Theodore O.) Wede Washington, D.C., was elected national pr dent of United Church Women at their Seve National Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio.

GERMANY: Nearly 300 hand-written and pr ed Bibles are on view in the exhibition at M entitled "The Book of Books"; the oldest among them is the "Book of Kells" from Irel It is written by hand in Latin, and illumin with miniatures from the 9th century. The n est Bible in the exhibition is a New Testam published this year in Swedish, illustrated v drawings by Rembrandt.

BRAZIL: A study conference on "The Respo ble Society" was held in Sao Paulo (Bra November 14 to 19, organized by a spe committee of the Brazilian churches. It is first such Christian conference on social q tions to be held in South America. Dr. Eg de Vries, Economic Adviser of the Internati Bank of Reconstruction, and chairman of World Council's Division of Studies, was of the speakers.